



Published by the Press Publishing Company,
10 to 12 PARK ROW, New York.

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 9.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE EVENING WORLD
(including postage)
PER MONTH.....\$2.00
PER YEAR.....\$24.00

Vol. 24.....No. 11,799

Entered at the Post-Office at New York as second-class matter.

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others taken up by its police. Station-house matters of convenience. A signal and patrol wagon service is a matter of humanity and affecting municipal progress.

AWAKE! POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

Whether it be the fault of the Police Commissioners, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment or that electrical experts have failed to produce a scheme grand enough, it is certainly a disgrace to New York City that it has no effective police signal system nor a matter of humanity and affecting municipal progress. The Empire City of the Empire State should be no long without both, dropping further in the rear every year, while every country village goes forward, seems to indicate that a grave responsibility rests upon the shoulders of some one. No excuse of any kind is there to offer for the delay save the jealousy and bickering of public servants, but in office to guard the city's interests, not to betray them. On no other subject has public sentiment been so much aroused. There is a unanimous demand for this reform, and for one that the police have been forgotten. Taxpayers and citizens recognize that a proper police signal and patrol wagon service would largely increase the value of real estate. Crime could not show itself in any quarter with impunity as it does now. A reform in this system would, as Commissioner McLaughlin pointed out, be the better for the Department and the city than the appointment of one thousand policemen. Every citizen would be a special officer. The very fact that from any corner word could be flashed to the nearest police station, the commission of a crime would in itself serve to deter criminals.

The necessity for a radical change in the present system was recognized seven years ago, when the subject first received serious consideration, and \$100,000 was appropriated to start it going. It was one of the last acts of the administration of that time and the amount was not inserted in the final estimates until half an hour before midnight on the last day of the year. That money has never been expended. Tests of all kinds were made. Months were wasted in experimenting, but apparently all to no purpose.

It was recognized two years ago when the Grand Jury took up the subject. Recently the matter has pushed itself to the front of its own necessity. Riots have taken place. Citizens have been assaulted and robbed in broad daylight. Even police officers, armed though they were, had prisoners taken from them and themselves put to flight, after an unmerciful beating. Nearly 100,000 arrests have been made every year, and just that many times officers have been taken from their posts, sometimes for an hour or more, during which time the burglar and the highwayman have had ample opportunity to ply their trades.

All this, and more, "The Evening World" has pointed out in its series of articles. Every side of the question has been given to the Police Commissioner and each member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has declared in favor of it. Ways and means are always available for such a purpose. Why, then, delay any further? For the wagon service alone a sum of \$100,000 is now in the pocket of the city. Such a sum was there last year and the year before, but never used. The present figure can be raised to \$1,000,000 if the Police Commissioners say that such an amount is needed. Why do they not ask it? Contradictory opinions of the Corporation Counsel may block the way of carrying out former contracts, but they do not stand in the way of taking action now. The public at large is not interested in any particular system of signalling, nor does it care what color its patrol wagons are to be painted. It is interested in the fact that a more efficient system be adopted. It wants to see a patrol service as good as the Fire Department, no matter who constructs it. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment has exactly sixteen more working days to dispose of the final estimates. A sounder use of a job on the work has been accomplished in that time. The money is there and it needs only a request from the Police Commissioners to receive it. The Rip Van Winkle sleep must by this time have passed away. Come, Police Commissioners and officials, wake up. Get together and inaugurate this greatest of all reforms.

THE HARLEM DRIVEWAY.

The arguments used in favor of side-walks on both sides of the Harlem River driveway at the recent hearing before the Park Board were sufficient to prove the fact that the people are on one side of the question and a handful of selfish individuals who drive fast horses on the other.

The principle involved is precisely the same as if the Park Commissioners should decide that in the main carriage drive of Central Park pedestrians should only be allowed to walk on one side of the road, so as not to annoy the drivers of vehicles by crossing the road.

The pedestrians outnumber the drivers more than a hundred to one. The former are, therefore, largely in the majority. Mr. Ellihu Root sensibly when he asked why the whole city should be taxed for the exclusive benefit of the driving machine.

It is practically excluded from the full and legitimate enjoyment of the advantages of the expenditure. If the three obstructive Commissioners insist on usurping the authority they do not possess to exclude the people from this public ground, other and more positive steps should be taken to bring them to a sense of their duty. Not another dollar should be raised for the driveway until the rights of the people are secured.

PARTITIONING THE SPILLS.

A Republican "conference" in this city has occupied itself with "slating" the officers who are to be voted for and elected by the Legislature when it meets next month. Mr. Malby, of St. Lawrence, is to be made Speaker of the Assembly; Senator Saxton is to be President pro tem of the Senate, the chairman of the principal committees have been decided upon, and the clerks and other officials down to messengers and doorknobs are all to be named.

The "conference" has very little to do with the members elected to the Legislature, or rather the members-elect have very little to do with the conference. The men who are partitioning the offices are the outside hangers-on, and the chief of the conference is Boss Platt. Indeed, it may be called the arrangement of a legislative Plati-form, for the selections are all dictations.

Well, if the people get an honest Legislature, and Mr. Malby is not particularly clear man, they will not be particular as to where the organization comes from. But there must be no counting out or

counting in and no rule of the lobby in Albany this winter. The policy of the Republican majority is to pass thoroughly good laws, securing desirable reforms of a non-partisan character, and to send them to a Democratic Governor for his approval or veto.

THE BLACK STILL SHOWS.

The Commissioners of Accounts have not whitewashed ex-Street Cleaning Commissioner Brennan. They have tried their best to do it, and may suppose they have succeeded, but they have not. The horse-purchasing record of the Department while under Brennan is too much tarnished to allow its stains to be hid by the thickest coat of kalsomining that could possibly be spread over it. Commissioner Walsh advertised himself in advance as an official kalsominer when he declared that the charges made against Brennan looked to him like the accusations of disappointed horse dealers, from whom the Department declined to purchase stock. This remark was impertinent. It implied that the charges were made by disappointed horse dealers with a desire to whitewash Brennan, and is unfit to fill the position he now holds. Is this flagrantly untruthful and collusive report to be the end of the matter? There is absolutely no desire nor intention to pursue the case further when brought directly home to a department. Is Mr. Walsh to continue to make the Commission of Accounts a delusion and a cheat?

THE SIXTH STRIKE.

Supt. Byrnes will fill his thirty years of service on the police force next Sunday, and a silver gold band will be added to his coat sleeve. These are honorable stripes, bright and clean and creditable, and such as any citizen might be proud to wear. Thirty years of faithful police work means a great deal more than the mere words imply. It means exhaustive labor, impairment of health and peril to life. It means courage, determination and intelligence to make it successful. It means a devotion that is ready at all times to subordinate personal considerations to public duty.

Supt. Byrnes made an excellent record as policeman, as patrolman, as roundabout, as Sergeant, as detective, as Captain, as Inspector, as Chief Inspector, and, finally, as Superintendent. In every position he has won credit and honor, and the people would be fortunate if they could retain his services on the force for another thirty years.

CHICKENS AND SMOKED CIGARETTES.

There was chicken-stealing at Irvington, N. J., and \$50 reward was offered for the capture of the chicken-thief. Promptly a colored gentleman who was emerging at midnight from the barnyard was nabbed and locked up. He was treated though with the savoir-faire and discretion of a chicken thief, which a pullet-lifter is entitled to. Instead of thrusting him into the Irvington jail, where he would have frozen to death, the police walked him to Newark and